

CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A steering wheel having a central hub connected by at least one spoke to a rim, and at least one heat pipe, the or each said heat pipe being thermally isolated from any external cooling arrangement and being configured to transfer heat from a first region of the rim to another region of the rim solely under its own function.
- 10 2. A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises a single heat pipe extending around substantially the entire extent of the rim.
- 15 3. A steering wheel according to Claim 2, wherein the heat pipe has a substantially circular configuration.
- 20 4. A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises two heat pipes, each said heat pipe extending around approximately half of the extent of the rim.
- 25 5. A steering wheel according to Claim 4, wherein each said heat pipe has a substantially semi-circular configuration.
6. A steering wheel according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the two heat pipes are thermally connected to one another.
7. A steering wheel according to any preceding Claim, wherein the or each heat pipe is provided with or connected to a heater.

8. A steering wheel according to Claim 7, wherein the or each heat pipe comprises a heating element.
9. A steering wheel according to any preceding Claim having heat pipes
5 located only in the rim.